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10/508,880

04/06/2005

Unal Bader

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EXAMINER

AMAYA, CARLOS DAVID

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2836

| SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE | MAIL DATE | DELIVERY MODE |
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3 MONTHS

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/508,880

Applicant(s)

BADER, UNAL

Examiner

Carlos Amaya

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2836

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 October 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 14-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 14-22, 27-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) 23-26 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 28 is objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 28 depends on cancelled claim 12, as stated on office action mailed 03/22/2006. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 14-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fonseca (US 6,660,950) in view of Barton (US 6,501,195).

With respect to claim 14 Fonseca discloses a switching arrangement for disconnecting a communications line connecting a computer to a remote data source (Column 1 lines 5-9), the switching arrangement comprising: a PC connector (Female plug 204a Figures 7-11) connected with the computer (Computer 1 Figure 1), the PC connector having at least a single-pole (Fonseca discloses that a data transfer relay 1102 Figure 11 has switches, thus a switch inherently has a connection and a disconnection state, thus forms a single pole); a remote connector (Female plug 204b Figure 7-11) connected with the remote data source (Internet provider 65), the remote connector having at least a single-pole (Switches inherently have connection and disconnection forming a single contact, single pole switch); an electrical switching

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device (Slider Switch 1103 Figure 11) located between the PC connector and the remote connector (Figure 9), the electrical switching device having a first switching state wherein a data connection exists between the PC connector and the remote connector and a second switching state wherein the data connection between the PC connector and the remote connector is interrupted (Column 4 lines 15-17); and a control connector (Data transfer relay 1102) at the switching device, the control connector being connectable with a computer supply voltage. Fonseca discloses that the connect/disconnect process of the data line from the computer could be automatically.

However, Fonseca does not disclose expressly that the connect/disconnect process is based on the presence/absence of a supply voltage.

Barton discloses a sensing unit for sensing when power is off (absence) of a primary device and an executing unit for interrupting power (disconnect) to a secondary device; and when the power is turned on (presence) in the primary device the executing unit supplying power (connect) to the secondary device when the power is on in the primary device.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined the teachings from Barton with the automatic connect/disconnect based on the presence and absence of supply voltage with the teaching of Fonseca.

The suggestion or motivation for doing so would have been to provide reliable means to connect and disconnect systems without manual intervention, since one can forget to turn a switch on/off when doing it manually.

With respect to claim 15-18 Fonseca in view of Barton disclose the switching arrangement according to claim 14, wherein the PC connector and remote connector is a telecommunications connector Fonseca (Figure 1, Column 1 lines 65-67) and the PC connector and the remote connector is an ISDN connector (Computer 1 is connected to the internet via the switch box 100 of figures 7-11, thus the switch of Fonseca's invention supports ISDN connections).

With respect to claim 19 Fonseca in view of Barton disclose the switching arrangement according to claim 14, wherein the electrical switching device comprises a relay having at least a single-pole (Column 4 lines 15-17 discloses the switches making and breaking the connection between the computer and the remote data source (Internet), and the switches must have at least a single-pole arrangement).

With respect to claim 20 Fonseca in view of Barton disclose the switching arrangement according to claim 14, wherein the electrical switching device is such that it is in the second switching state when the supply voltage or a signal is absent at the control connector (see Barton abstract).

With respect to claim 21 Fonseca in view of Barton disclose the switching arrangement according to claim 14, wherein the switching device includes a switching system for each pole (Fonseca discloses that the arrangement of figure 11 has a data transfer relay 1102 and 6 or more switches, and each of the 6 or more switches that Fonseca discloses necessarily have poles to make or brake a connection).

With respect to claim 22 Fonseca in view of Barton disclose the switching arrangement according to claim 14, wherein the control connector includes a first plug

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connector, which is adapted to be plugged together with a second plug connector which is accessible from outside of the computer (Control connector 1102, is plugged to first plug connector 204a and second plug connector 204b Figure 11, and is accessible from outside the computer via Slider Switch 1103).

With respect to claim 27 Fonseca in view of Barton disclose the switching arrangement according to claim 14, further including a housing for the switching arrangement, the housing including the PC connector and the remote connector which are identically configured (Figures 7-11).

With respect to claim 28 Fonseca in view of Barton disclose the switching arrangement according to claim 27, however, Fonseca does not disclose expressly that the PC connector and the remote connector are RJ-45 connectors. One of ordinary skill in the art would envision the use of RJ-45 connectors for the PC connector and the remote connector for the purpose of making a strong reliable connection. Also the RJ-45 connectors are commonly used for Ethernet, networking and connecting a cable or DSL modem to the computer. (Prior art Figures 2a-5b discloses the type of telephone connectors employ to make connections, one would envision the use of RJ-45 connectors.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 23-26 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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5. Claim 23 is allowable over the prior art of record, because the prior art of record does not teach or discloses that "the second plug connector is electrically connected with a third plug connector such that a lead to a computer peripheral device can be looped via the second and third plug connectors".
6. Claims 24-26 are also allowable since they depend on an allowable claim.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Kouropoulos (US 6,961,856) for teaching a computer protection device for sensing power drawn from a computer and a relay to disconnect a data port when the power drawn by the computer system is down. Cornelius (US 5,491,721) for disclosing a power control circuit for controlling the power flow to the modem based on the modem's data activity.
8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 14-28 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

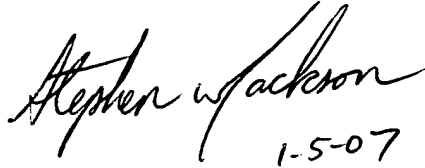
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carlos Amaya whose telephone number is (571) 272-8941. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Sircus can be reached on (571) 272-2800. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

CA



1-5-07

STEPHEN W. JACKSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER